



December 27, 2005

Elaine Vaudreuil
NOAA Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
National Policy and Evaluation Division (N/ORM7)
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4, 10th Floor Station
Silver Spring, MD 20910

SUBJECT: 2007 CELCP Grant Applications

Dear Ms. Vaudreuil:

Please find enclosed the submission from California for the 2007 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program competitive grants.

California has proposed three projects for 2007 funding: (1) acquisition of the Piedras Blancas property along the "Hearst coast" of San Luis Obispo County, proposed by The Trust for Public Land and the California Department of Parks and Recreation; (2) acquisition of several properties along the Santa Clara River in Ventura County as part of the California River Parkway and Southern California Wetlands Recovery programs, proposed by The Nature Conservancy and the Coastal Conservancy; and (3) acquisition of the Jenner Headlands, 5,600 acres at the mouth of the Russian River in Sonoma County, proposed by the Sonoma Land Trust and the Sonoma County Open Space District.

The Piedras Blancas project, which was selected for CELCP funding in 2006, is California's highest priority for 2007. Completing the funding package necessary to preserve this property is an urgent need in view of the continuing threat of private commercial development and the limited time available to avert that threat. We would encourage NOAA to provide for this project the remainder of the funding that was sought in 2006 but could not be provided because of the many competing demands on CELCP funds.

1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94612-2530
510•286•1015 Fax: 510•286•0470

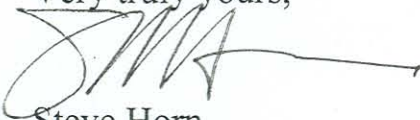


All of these projects, as well as the other project proposals received by California that we are not able to submit for the 2007 grant round, are consistent with the CELCP Guidelines and very worthy of funding as national priorities. However, recognizing the funding limits that will always exist for programs like this, it may require more than one CELCP grant cycle to provide the full funding needed from CELCP for any of these projects. For high cost single properties or regional projects that involve multiple property acquisitions (such as the Santa Clara River Parkway) CELCP could be most effective by entering into programmatic commitments through which grant funds could be provided over several years as further appropriations are made for CELCP. We would encourage NOAA to take a long-term view to achieving the purposes of CELCP through a multi-year direction of some of these grants to high-priority State-federal partnerships, whether for large single properties or multiple-site programs. NOAA should consider a streamlined annual application format for multi-year acquisition programs, as well as a provision for administrative direction of some portion of the annual priorities schedule to projects that have already been determined to be high priorities through previous reviews.

With that advice, we would like to express our appreciation for the extraordinary efforts made by you and the other NOAA staff members to create this CELCP evaluation process at lightning speed. We look forward to a continued collaboration between NOAA and the states in achieving the potential of CELCP to create a permanent legacy of protected, accessible public lands along our coasts.

Please contact me (510-286-4157) if you have any questions about these project applications.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SMA' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Steve Horn

Deputy Executive Officer